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LINE-UP



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INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015



American Memories

Northville Community Foundation celebrates community, Independence Day

The floats, bands and other entries marching through Northville today didn't just happen to be traveling through town by coincidence.

Not a chance.

It takes months of planning and weeks of work to make sure that the Annual Northville 4th of July Parade comes off perfectly and this year, as in the past 15 years, the Northville Community Foundation stepped up to the job. Jessica Striegle, the new executive director of the foundation, has followed the blueprint of former Director Shari Peters who retired earlier this year, and has been working on the details and organization of the event for months.

"Many people don't even realize that it is the Foundation that sponsors and organizes the parade," Striegle said.

The Northville Community Foundation may be one of the best kept secrets in the community,

”
*Many people
don't even realize
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organizes the parade.*

despite the incredible amount of work for which the organization is directly responsible for in Northville.

The Foundation itself is similar to a 401k for the community. Monies invested today reap dividends for years and benefit community programs, Striegle explained. The Foundation is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, autonomous, publicly supported, philanthropic institution. It manages a collection funds for the long-term benefit of the community and it is a

registered nonprofit 501(c)(3).

In addition to the parade, the Northville Community Foundation also manages, supports and operates Maybury Farm. Striegle said the Foundation exists for the purpose of enhancing and enriching life in the Northville community and southeast Michigan. The Foundation supports nonprofits, educational programs, youth and senior programs, the performing arts and historical preservation in the community. The Northville Community Foundation was founded July 2, 1997.

In 1999, the Foundation took on the Independence Day Parade and many of the original members of the Parade Committee are still volunteering their time to ensure that Northville has the best parade possible. Work on the parade begins in September and continues up to and a

See **Foundation**, page 2

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015

Foundation from page 1

little after the last bit of confetti or candy from the floats has been cleaned from Main Street.

The foundation hosts two events annual specifically to build funding to be used for community programs, the Annual Golf Classic and the Holiday Home Tour, both of which began in 1998.

In 2001 the Northville Community Foundation was selected to receive funds from the Tobacco Grant settlement which funded the initial formation of the Healthy Youth and Senior Fund. The Foundation began funding the anti-smoking programs in the middle schools (both public and private) and created a partnership with St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Even though the state funding ended in 2004, the programs continued, funded by the Foundation efforts. Since its inception, the Northville Community

Foundation has built community funds to more than \$500,000 and has awarded multiple grants to:

D.A.R.E. (city)
D.A.R.E. (township)
Grief Support
Hillside Middle School Anti-smoking Program
Meads Middle School Anti-smoking Program
Maybury Farm
Northville Arts Commission
Northville Genealogical Society
Northville High School Band
Northville High School SADD
Northville Historical Society
Northville Independence Day Parade
Northville Library
Northville Mothers Club
Northville Nite
Northville schools (books)
Northville Senior Center
Northville Senior Prescription Drug Program

Northville Senior Food Program
Old Village School (special needs equipment)
Our Lady of Victory Anti-smoking Program
St. George Ministries
Tipping Point Theater
Youth Advisory Council

The Northville Community Foundation Board of Directors includes former Executive Director Shari Peters, Lisa Barry, Christopher Belcher, Andrea Hacker, Tracie Hoffmann, Christopher Kelly, Colleen McDonald, Tom Moga and Steve Moore. The Foundation has also awarded more than 100 scholarships to local high school seniors in addition to the other community events the organization sponsors..

To contact the Foundation regarding the many volunteer opportunities available, call (248) 374-0200. The offices are located at 18600 Northville Road, Suite 275, Northville, MI 48168.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015



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St. Mary Mercy Livonia is proud to support the Northville Independence Day Parade and share our memories through the parade's theme - American Memories.

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Our team of caregivers gets to witness - each and every day - the miracle of life, and we are privileged to help

bring these new lives into the world. We have the opportunity to stand beside women as they become mothers. We witness couples becoming parents; we see their joy when they lay eyes on their child for the first time. We see big brothers and sisters meeting a new sibling, and grandparents being introduced to their first - or 21st grandchild.

We watch as parents count little toes and tiny fingers. We smile as they debate over who the child looks like. And we calm parents when their baby cries for the first time. We watch as

parents learn about the strengths they did not know they had and the fears they did not know existed. We see the first moment when individuals realize being a parent means loving their child more than they have ever loved themselves.

We see the formation of hopes and dreams. We witness wonder and amazement and the promise of a bright future.

The moments in the first few days of a child's life cannot be replaced. They

See **Sponsor**, page 4



INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015

Sponsor from page 3

are memories always remembered and cherished. St. Mary Mercy is grateful to be a part of these American memories. Thank you for sharing your memories and may you always cherish them.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is a 304-bed hospital providing acute-care medical and health services to our community by board-certified doctors and registered nurses. We provide the highest quality services with leading-edge technology in our 24-hour Emergency Center, Senior ER, Heart & Vascular Center, Cancer Center, Birthing Center, Women's Center, Center for Joint Replacement, Inpatient and Outpatient Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Units, Sleep Center, Wound Care Center, and Michigan Bariatric Institute. We also offer same-day diagnostic testing and a variety of community health education services.



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Pontiac, 304-bed St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 164-bed St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron, 136-bed St. Joseph Mercy Livingston in Howell, and 113-bed St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea.

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Down on the Farm

Foundation-operated Maybury Farm is learning center

Baby goats, newborn lambs, squawking chickens, cows and the rest of the livestock expected on a working farm are available to visit only a few miles from downtown Northville at Maybury Farm.

The farm offers a playground, a welcome center, many dedicated and specialized outbuildings, planted fields and a taste of farm life as it was in the early 1900s.

The beloved and popular community attraction also offers specialized attractions, classes, childrens' camps and is a popular destination for school field trips.

The entire farm, however, was

See **Farm**, page 6





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INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015

Farm from page 5

destroyed by fire in 2003 and has been carefully and lovingly rebuilt by donations from individuals and businesses during the past decades. It hasn't been an easy task, according to former Foundation Executive Director Shari Peters who retired earlier this year; but it was completed with a lot of determination and the help of too many people to name. Peters oversaw the rebuilding of the farm and took the plight of the farm to the corporations and businesses who donated cash and services totaling more than \$1.4 million to rebuild the farm.

"It wasn't easy, but it was more than worth it," Peters said. She added that the entire community owes a debt of gratitude to the companies that sent donations, services and employees to help with the effort.

Peters said that when the Northville Community Foundation agreed to take



over the operation and management of the farm from the state in 2003, it was a popular attraction in the state park, with barns, outbuildings, farm equipment and many beloved animals.

The state had closed the farm to visitors in 2002 and offered management to the Community Foundation as a means of reopening the attraction. Just

one month after agreeing to take on the farm, as negotiations with the state were under way, a devastating fire destroyed the barns, the outbuildings all but a few animals and all the farm equipment.

"It was a heart wrenching loss for the entire area," Peters recalled.

There was no insurance funding from the state to help pay for rebuilding but the board of directors of the Foundation were firm in their resolve to rebuild the farm that had been a treasured part of the community for decades.

In November of 2003, the farm officially became the responsibility of the Foundation where immediate rebuilding efforts were being planned. The goal, according Peters, was to open the farm for school children and families throughout southeast Michigan to visit and learn.

"After the fire and during negotiations people wanted to do something to

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help rebuild; the foundation began a temporary endowment where people could donate; we raised approximately \$30,000 - wonderful but nowhere near what was needed," Peters said.

The barns were replaced with 125 year old structures moved from Island Lakes in Novi with the help of Toll Brothers who donated the cost of moving the barns.

Peters said several hundred individual and family donations poured in, along with 100 corporations who helped with the rebuilding. Including in-kind donations, more than \$1.4 million was raised to help re-establish the farm.

The Northville Community Foundation received no tax dollars to rebuild; because of the outpouring of support from corporations and 37 communities the rebuilding process was possible.

Today, visitors experience a hands-on working farm filled with livestock,

produce and harvested fields. The farm operates on a very tight budget, but animal feed and upkeep alone are in excess of \$25,000 annually, Peters said. She said that the farm still receives no tax money whatsoever to help fund the operations and depends on fundraisers and donations.

The farm offers educational programming available compiled by educators along with farming experts and is in compliance with school curriculums even providing benchmarks. Schools have embraced the unique programming opportunities and are regular visitors to Maybury Farm. Visitors can watch maple syruping, Farm Days, Dairy Days, Harvest Fest, sheep shearing, planting, plowing demonstrations, and the Annual Corn Maze and other programs now seasonally available at Maybury Farm.

Maybury Farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile Road in Northville Township. Visitors should enter at the



red Maybury Farm sign entrance off Eight Mile, 1 ¼ miles west of Beck Road. Do not enter the state park but continue ½ mile west on Eight Mile to the Maybury Farm entrance.

General Admission is \$2.50 per person and children younger than 2 are admitted at no cost. Parking is complimentary.

The farm is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.



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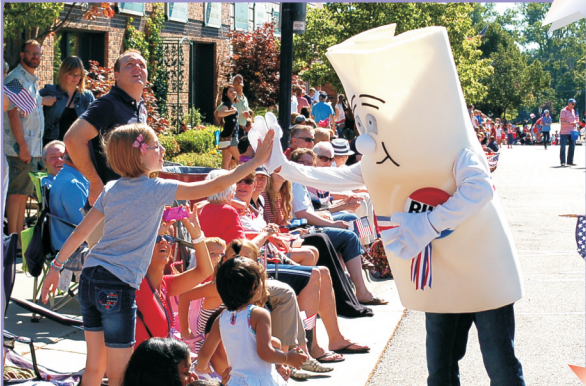
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AMERICAN MEMORIES

Preliminary line up — some attractions may have been added after press time

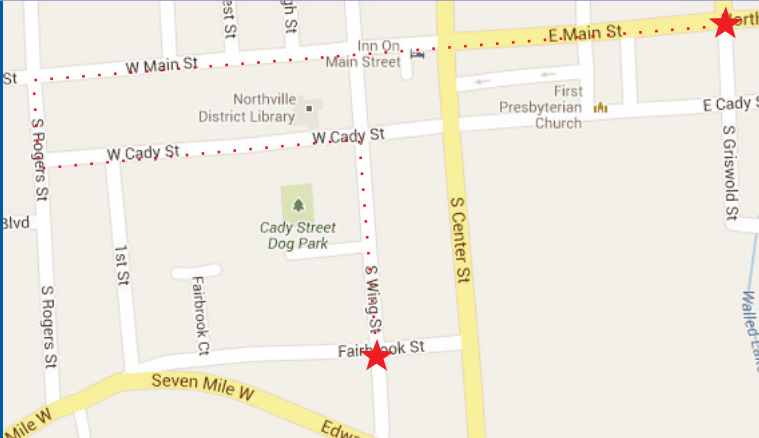


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Senator Patrick Colbeck
Congressman Dave Trott
State Representative Kurt Heise
Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki
Nash FM 93.1
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Baseball & Softball Association
Group
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Marque Theater
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Smokey the Bear
Dance Company
Group

Martial Arts
Characters
Maybury Farm
Float
Movie Cars
Float
Miss Michigan Amazing
Clowns
Antique Fire Truck
Honor Guard
Dance Company
Float
Northville Art House
USA Hockey NTDP
Float
Great Lakes Taiko Center Drum Band
Karate
Skating Group
Float
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Redford Township Unicycle Club
City of Northville Fire Dept.
Northville Police

The parade route begins at the corner of Griswold and Main Street in Northville and continues down Main to Rogers to Cady to Wing to Fairbrook Street and ends at Fairbrook and Center Street.



Colorful commentators

Local dentist, radio personality bring annual parade to life

Two people helping to make American Memories at the Northville Foundation 4th of July parade are Dr. William Demray and Lisa Berry.

The pair have been doing the color commentary and announcing the parade exhibits for about a decade now and both confess it is a labor of love. The two have remarkably different styles, which Berry says, may be the secret of their success and their popularity during the event.

"Bill's a planner. He has everything scripted while I am a winger," she said. "I just like things to be spontaneous and fun and see what happens."

Demray admits that he does like to have things scripted and planned, even his notoriously bad jokes.

"Yes, and then he makes me read

Bill's a planner.

He has everything scripted

while I am a winger.

I just like things to

be spontaneous and fun

and see what happens.

the punch lines," Berry said.

The rapport between the two has charmed the section of parade viewers near the judge's stand during the past decade while those outside the radius of the sound system often don't even realize that the announcements of the floats and groups is going on. They

both agree that could be a good thing when there is an announcement mishap or an inadvertent slip of the lip.

"We've had our moments," Demray, the owner of Preservation Dental on Main Street, said.

He recalled having slipped up on the pronunciation of Tae Kwon DOO one year and being immediately confronted by a large man sporting a black belt who explained that it was Tae Kwon DOUGH. Then, of course, there was the year that Berry commented that one of the auto dealer floats in the parade "had his hands on my muffler just a few days ago."

The pair laugh at their foibles and admit that the announcing is something they look forward to, even with



INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015

their busy schedules. Demray's thriving practice in an antique home since 1977 is a mainstay in the community. He actively supports a multitude of community groups and hosts fundraisers at his personal residence several times a year for civic and charitable groups. To date, those events have generated more than \$100,000 for local charities which goes back to the community, he said.

"I think the parade is another community connection. When I came to Northville I made a conscious decision to be part of the community. I live here and my practice is here, which is somewhat unusual for dentists," he said. "I think it's important to working toward giving back to the community all the time."

Berry, who has a distinguished professional resume, has co-hosted morning radio shows with Bill Bonds, Chuck Gaidica, Kevin O'Neill and Denny McClain among many others and has worked at WXYT-AM, WYCD, WNIC and WJR. She is now the local host of All Things Considered on 89.1, a public radio station serving Ann Arbor.

"I enjoy interacting with smart, creative people and Dr. Demray is right up there with the best of them" she said.

Berry has been a member of the Northville Community Foundation Board of Directors for about 5 years and said



Dr. Bill Demray and Lisa Berry

See **Announcers**, page 12

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Announcers from page 11

she is really proud of the job the Foundation does organizing the parade every year, although she worries that people do not realize the parade is a foundation endeavor.

"The Foundation people work hard on it. They start right after the parade planning for next year," she said. "I love Northville. It is a real piece of Americana. I haven't missed this parade in 20 years, long before I was a part of it," she said.

The pair agreed that after working together on the commentary, they have a better idea of what to expect from one another, although Demray still works to have all the details of each float, exhibit or group at his fingertips while Berry continues to add her special brand of wit to the event.

Demray's work at the microphone is only part of his participation in the parade where his entries every year

”
*I love Northville.
 It is a real piece
 of Americana. I haven't
 missed this parade in 20
 years, long before
 I was a part of it.*

have become something the crowd anticipates. He has sent some of his Volkswagen Beetles down the parade route carrying Betsey Floss, Miss Gingivitis, the Sugar Bug and the Tooth Fairy. He buys back the candy children collect during the parade and donates it "to a needy landfill in western Wayne County.

The characters have become a mainstay although Demray's PlaqueMan did accost Berry one year during the event.

While the pair admit that they do

like to "push the envelope a little bit" as Demray did with his rendition of the Red Skelton classic interpretation of The Pledge of Allegiance one year; they sometimes wonder if anyone is really listening.

"Every year, we wonder if we are going to get booted," Demray said. "We wait until the end of the parade to see if somebody will come over and ask us if we are going to do it next year."

According to Jessica Striegler, the executive director of the Northville Community Foundation, Berry and Demray have nothing to worry about on that front.

"We are thrilled to have Lisa and Bill back as our parade emcees again this year. They are both so talented as individuals and together they bring a lot of fun and personality to the parade experience," she said.

"They do such an awesome job and we are lucky to have had them as our emcees for so many years."



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INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2015

Pets on parade

Judges have seen a goldfish in his bowl riding along the parade route in a wagon pulled by his proud 5-year-old owner; cats dressed in bonnets carried in baskets, birds in cages and lots and lots of dogs. Lots of dogs.

Large dogs, tiny dogs, obedient dogs and dogs more in charge than their owners have all been part of the Pet Parade during the Northville Community Foundation Independence Day Parade during the past years. There is always a crowd of proud young owners who welcome the chance to show off their pets, but when the temperature soars, attendance may dwindle a bit, according to parade organizers.

The owners do not have to pre-register, but simply show up at the Northville Downs parking lot the morning of the parade and be assigned a spot in the assembly.

The event is sponsored again this year by Meadowbrook and Breckenridge Veterinary Clinics owned and operated by Dr. Joe Osbourne, DVM.

"The parade is a signature event in Northville," he said. "I live and work in the community, my kids are in school here and it just ties in with our business," he said.

"My only regret is that I don't actually ever get to see the parade," he added.



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Young 'bikers' vie for 'Best Decorated' parade honor

One of the most popular sections of the Northville Community Foundation Independence Day Parade every year is the parade of decorated bikes, a tribute to the creativity of the artistic young minds in Northville.

Children 5 and older are invited every year to decorate their bikes, and sometimes even trikes, with patriotic red, white and blue adornments and

join the event. They do not pay an entry fee, nor do they have to pre-register, they simply show up at the Northville Downs parking lot at the corner of Sheldon and Seven Mile Road by 9:20 a.m. on the Fourth of July riding their decorated wheels.

Parents are welcome to walk alongside the young bikers during the parade.

This year the bikes will be decorated in the American Memories theme of the parade and the winners chosen as the best decorated bikes in both the girls and boys category will each receive a \$50 Meijer gift card.

The bike parade is sponsored this year by Meijer, the Northville Community Foundation and Monroe Bank and Trust. (Photos by Sean Rhaesa)

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